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Light Northeasterly Winds.

# The Washington Times.

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FOR WASHINGTON PEOPLE.  
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Number 2855.

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1902.

Price Two Cents.

## GEN. MILES' VIEWS ON GENERAL STAFF PLAN

Statements Before Senate  
Military Committee  
Made Public.

THREATS TO RESIGN UNPUBLISHED

Commissary Maladministration  
Due to Individual  
Incompetency.

STAFF PLAN UNREPUBLICAN.

Power of the President to Advance Of-  
ficers of the Lowest Grade to Com-  
mand the Army Over the Heads of  
Seniors.

The statement made by Lieutenant General Miles before the Senate Military Affairs Committee last Thursday, in which he attacked the bill prepared by Secretary Root for the creation of a general staff corps, or, at least, what remained of it after it had been "revised" by that officer and by the committee, was made public yesterday.

As was expected, the statement contains no intimation that General Miles would apply for retirement from his high office if the bill were passed, and the alleged caustic criticisms of the motives of the President and the Secretary of War, which were set forth in the newspaper accounts of the hearing, are conspicuously absent.

His Statements Prepared.  
General Miles stated to the committee at the beginning of the hearing that as the matter was such an important one he had written out some notes, and he then read his carefully prepared statements.

He then proceeded to criticize Secretary Root's plan for consolidating the Pay, Quartermaster's, and Commissary Departments of the army as the creation of another office, whose duties should be performed by the commanding general of the army. The maladministration of the Commissary Department during the Spanish war, he said, was not the fault of the system, but of those who administered it. The consolidation plan he denominated revolutionary, a casting to the winds of the lessons of experience.

The General Staff Plan.  
The proposed creation of a general staff corps he characterizes as a radical departure from and in effect a condemnation of the methods heretofore obtaining in the Republic, creating a bureau of marked centralization and visiting it with extraordinary powers, not subject in any way to the commanders of troops. It is an effort to foster in a republican form of government a system peculiarly adapted to monarchies. Under its provisions, he said, where officers of lower grades could be advanced over their seniors, would not there be a temptation to be sought for by ambitious and scheming men, and would not the appointments be the result of social, religious, and political intrigue?

General Miles devotes the greater portion of his statement to a historical review of the legislation and regulations affecting the powers of his office and of the conflicts of authority between the various Secretaries of War and the commanders of the army.

Friction in the Department.  
Of the sixty-six Secretaries since the foundation of the Government he has heard of friction between but ten of them, and the generals commanding. As to the office of Secretary of War, General Miles remarks that it could not be expected that a civilian would either be qualified or could properly master the important details that daily required attention in the administration of the affairs of the army. General Miles read the section of the bill relating to the details for the staff, and said that under it the President could detail the junior brigadier general of the army and make him the chief of staff with the rank of lieutenant general.

A Hypothetical Case.  
"Supposing," he said, "after all the good men are gone, some Administration comes in and the President, under this law, says:  
"I do not want the staff of my predecessor; I want my political friends. I do not want anyone among the brigadier generals or the major generals; but I find a man, perhaps a captain, and when the first vacancy occurs in the staff of the line I will make that young man a brigadier general; I will make him chief of ordnance, or chief quartermaster, or chief of the signal corps, or a brigadier general in the line. You confirm him. The next day I make him chief of staff with the grade of lieutenant general. And let him, together with this detailed general staff, dictate the military affairs of the army. The mere removal of Fitch and McSweeney as President of the United States."

"It seems to me you are throwing the door open for a future autocrat. I do not think it is wise in my judgment, in accordance with the principle and theory of democratic government, and for the best interests of the army, which has existed more than a hundred years and fulfilled all our requirements, to adopt such a scheme."

LORD METHUEN BETTER.

The General's Condition Reported to Be Satisfactory.  
LONDON, March 24.—The War Office has received a despatch from Johannesburg announcing that the condition of General Lord Methuen, who went of to South Africa, is satisfactory.

## The General Staff Plan Unrepublican Departure.

General Miles' criticisms of the proposition of the Secretary of War for a general staff corps, made public yesterday, contain in the printed statement no account of his threat to resign if the measure becomes law.

The plan he characterizes as a radical departure from republican methods, and said that it empowered the President to advance to the command of the army officers of the lowest grade.

## MR. TAYLOR'S SCALP NOW SAID TO BE IN DANGER

Efforts of Representative  
Livingston to Secure  
His Removal.

ATTITUDE OF THE PRESIDENT

Wedding Out in the Immigration Department to Begin April 1—Assistant Secretary May Be Removed Shortly Thereafter.

April 1 is to be a great wedding out day in the Immigration Bureau. President Roosevelt has decided to remove Thomas Fitch and Mr. McSweeney, commissioner and assistant commissioner of Immigration at New York. It has been learned that Frank P. Sargent, Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, will accept the position of Commissioner General of Immigration, and he may step into the shoes of the incumbent, Mr. T. F. Fitch, on that date.

Mr. Sargent is expected to arrive in Washington today or tomorrow and will probably formally accept the position at that time.

His nomination may not be sent to the Senate until the President decides upon the successor of Commissioner Fitch, at New York.

Opponents of Mr. H. A. Taylor, Third Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and head of the immigration service, declare he, too, will retire before long.

Indications are that the President's investigation of the affairs of the Bureau of Immigration will prove one of the most exciting shakings of a branch of the Government that has occurred for several Administrations. Consideration is being given to every immigration station in the United States.

Representative Livingston and a number of members of both houses of Congress are said to be waging war against Assistant Secretary Taylor and declare that they will be able to have him removed.

Mr. Taylor's Statement.  
Mr. Taylor declares that the opposition to him is based on personal animosity. "This is the only thing that matters," he declared Mr. Taylor yesterday, "is that he knows so much that is not so. The real reason he is attempting to injure me is because I have not striven for the advancement of Chief Clerk Larned of the Immigration Bureau, who is a particular friend of his and a Democrat. It is rather a peculiar thing that Commissioner Powderly has apparently favored the Democrats in his department more than the Republicans. One day I said to him, 'Why is it when you have any good places for disposal in Hawaii or Porto Rico you always name a Democrat for the job?'"

"If that plan were adopted generally President Roosevelt would pick his friends and the President would be the head of the Democratic party."

Besides the opposition of Representative Livingston, there are a number of other Congressmen who are interested in the removal of Mr. Taylor. They declare that Mr. Taylor should be removed if Mr. Powderly is, and they charge that Mr. Taylor shielded the scandals at the Ellis Island immigration station.

Mr. Powderly, it is claimed, has more influence than was generally supposed. Among the leaders of organized labor he has an immensely strong following. Prior to his appointment as Commissioner General of Immigration he was the head of the Knights of Labor.

Backed by Senators.  
On the other hand, Mr. Taylor has influential backing. He is from Wisconsin. Senator Spooner and Senator Quaker are his supporters. On this account there is some doubt as to whether his retirement by the President will be forced. Mr. Roosevelt declared to a prominent member of Congress last week that he intended to remove Mr. Taylor, but the arguments of Senator Spooner may have induced him to change his mind.

In addition to dropping Powderly, Fitch, and McSweeney, it is said that a host of other officials of the Immigration Bureau will go.

## RUSSIA'S FRIENDLY MOOD.

Satisfactory Relations Established With  
Nieu Chwang Administrator.

PEKING, March 24.—Satisfactory relations between the Russian administrator at Nieu Chwang and Commander F. B. Barry, commanding the American gunboat Vicksburg, have been established. The administrator has made adequate preparation for his visit to recognize Commander Barry all winter.

The Russians have assumed a conciliatory attitude toward all foreigners in Manchuria since the announcement of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Pending an agreement regarding that province, the Chinese are still contending that Russia set a date for the termination of her occupation of Chinese territory.

DENIED BY MR. RIDGELY.

His Brother Not Appointed National  
Bank Examiner.

Speaking of the report that he had appointed his brother, Edward Ridgely, as national bank examiner in New York, the controller of the Currency said yesterday:

"The statement is not correct. No such appointment has been made and no change in the national bank examiners in New York City has been made or is being considered by me."

There must be a direct investigation, and it must be conducted by the new act, he said. He pointed out that it has been charged that the Ellis Island station has for a number of years been conducted rather irregularly, there is great consternation among officials there, both high and low.

Irregularities Charged.

Among those members of the House who are siding with Representative Livingston in his fight against Assistant Secretary Taylor, it is declared that there are irregularities in divisions of the Government service under his charge other than his charge of Immigration. One official who has charge of the disposition of certain contracts and receives a salary of \$2,000 per year, they declare, is building a \$50,000 house.

The friction that has for two years at least existed between Commissioner Powderly and his chief, Mr. Taylor, has led to the full right of publicity now that the President has started his investigation by arranging for the retirement of the former.

In case Mr. Taylor is not removed in his present position, there is a possibility that Representative Livingston will introduce a resolution calling for a committee on Immigration. The committee, it is said, will have as its chairman, to investigate the affairs of the Bureau of Immigration, a resolution which is being held in the President's hands.

TWO HUNDRED LIVES  
WIPED OUT IN JAPAN

New of a Horrible Disaster  
At Tacoma.

Saga of the Big Oil Works  
and Sinking, Burying Houses  
and Striking Fire Beneath Snow.

TACOMA, Wash., March 24.—The steamship Duke of Wales, which arrived last night, brings news of a terrible and unprecedented disaster at the Ohira Petroleum Works, the big refinery establishment at Katsunawa, near Nigata, on the west coast of Japan, which involved the loss of fully 200 lives.

The works were located under the brow of a steep hill, and there had been a heavy fall of snow.

Suddenly, a large avalanche thundered down from the sheer height of 600 feet, crushing and burying the oil works, buildings, tanks, reservoirs, offices, and work people's dwellings.

Part of the place was completely submerged, in another portion the roofs were crushed in and buildings shattered.

This caused an outbreak of fire, which reached the oil and spread with awful rapidity through that part of the buildings heavily buried.

Up to the time of the latest telegram received at Yokohama eight bodies had been recovered, and four others had been dug out, but the majority were still buried and not yet recovered, but the superintendent of the works placed the number of fatalities at not fewer than 200.

WORD FROM DE WINDT.

Paris-to-New-York-by-Land Traveler at  
Yakutsk.

LONDON, March 24.—Despatches received here from Yakutsk, Siberia, state that Harry De Windt, who is at the head of an expedition which left Paris to make its way overland to New York, has had a rough experience. The journey from Irkutsk to the terminus of the railway occupied twenty-six days.

The expedition has successfully accomplished 2,000 miles of the land journey since leaving the railway. During the ride more than 700 horses were employed. The authorities at Yakutsk strongly advised the travelers not to proceed farther north, stating that the conditions were much worse than usual, and that it would be extremely hazardous for them to attempt it.

Mr. De Windt, however, declared he intended to start for the Arctic on February 15.

WALLER HELD INVESTIGATION

Captain Porter Says General  
Wanted No Prisoners.

MANILA, March 24.—Lieutenant Waller, who with Major Waller is being held by court-martial, testified today that there was an investigation before the court.

Captain Porter, of the 10th Cavalry, who accompanied Major Waller, testified that General Waller wanted no prisoners and that he should be punished by death.

## PROBING THE BIG RAILWAY MERGER

Representatives of Banking  
Interests on the Stand.

NOT TO RESTRAIN COMMERCE

Witnesses State That Buying and Selling  
Northern Pacific Was in Regular  
Order of Trade and Not to Control  
Shipments.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Jacob H. Schiff, head of the banking house of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and Charles Steele, of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., answered a wide range of questions before Richard A. Mabley, United States special examiner, today in Peter Powers' suit to prevent the Northern Securities Company from controlling the Northern Pacific Railroad.

J. P. Morgan, it is asserted, will testify on Wednesday morning.

Some of the first questions asked Mr. Schiff were:

"Were you not one of the men interested in Great Northern, who bought a large block of Northern Pacific stock in or about the year 1897? I understood that the amount of the purchase at that time was \$25,000,000?"

"I do not recollect the exact amount," replied Mr. Schiff. "I was one of a number of men who bought a large block of that stock. I was acting as an individual, and not for my firm. I do not remember the names of the other men, and cannot say whether or not James J. Hill and John S. Kennedy participated in the transaction. My share of the stock then purchased was disposed of prior to 1898."

Trading in Northern Pacific.

Charles Steele said that prior to May 1901, the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. held \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 of Northern Pacific stock on its own account. Between May 1 and May 7 the firm bought about \$15,000,000 of this stock. All of this was purchased by J. P. Morgan & Co. and paid for without any understanding regarding the future disposition of the stock. The firm had about \$15,000,000 of this Northern Pacific stock until the middle of the summer, when James J. Hill and his friends purchased \$10,000,000. The remaining \$5,000,000 was held until late in the fall, when it was sold to the Northern Securities Company.

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## PATRICK TRIAL NEARS END.

His Counsel Accuses Captain Baker of  
Trying to Get the Estate.

NEW YORK, March 24.—The ninth week of the Patrick trial began today with the summing up for the defense by Robert M. Moore. Mr. Moore talked for five hours and finished his argument before adjournment. The summing up for the people will be made tomorrow and the case will go to the jury Wednesday.

But he did show a remarkable command of the thousand and one details of the case. He denied that Rice had been murdered, and declared there had been a conspiracy to trump up a charge of murder for the purpose of getting Patrick out of the way. He said, in part:

"There has been a conspiracy, and Jones is in it, but Patrick is not his co-conspirator. In the real conspiracy Jones and Baker, James A. Baker's opportunity and Baker is Jones' motive to tell this story of murder."

"Albert T. Patrick did not barter away his trust. James A. Baker did. He has promised to give away half of a million of the money entrusted to him to win the support of the different branches of the Rice family. Captain Baker was ready to do anything under heaven to defeat the will of 1900."

MITCHELL BELIEVES  
STRIKE IS IMMINENT

GETS SHARE IN CUBA COMPANY

Peter McLaurin Sustains His Claim in  
Court.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., March 24.—Peter F. McLaurin, at Mount Vernon, was today awarded a verdict of \$25,000 against the Cuba Company in a suit for the share of stock in the company.

Mr. McLaurin was only in the employ of the company a few months, when his services were dispensed with by Sir William Van Horne. When McLaurin demanded his share of stock it was refused. He sued the company, making all the directors co-defendants.

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## PRISON AND FINES IN POSTAL CASES.

Heavy Sentences in  
Cuban Postal Cases.

Sentences were passed yesterday in the Cuban postal cases at Havana. Neely, Reeves, and Rathbone were condemned each to serve ten years in prison. In addition heavy penalties were imposed by the court, as follows:

Rathbone to pay a fine of \$35,324; Reeves also to undergo a \$35,516 fine, while Neely must surrender to the Cuban Government \$56,701.

This ends another chapter in the famous scandal.

MINERS PROVIDE FOR  
SUSPENSION OF  
LABOR.

TO WORK THREE DAYS A WEEK

Order Will Go Into Effect April 1, Unless  
Settlement Is Reached Before That  
Date—Operators Refuse to Confer and  
May Lock Out the Men.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., March 24.—The United Mine Workers' convention adjourned this afternoon, after adopting a resolution which demands of the operators a number of concessions. The miners hope to come to an amicable understanding with their employers through the good offices of the industrial department of the Civic Federation.

Only Three Work Days.  
Should the latter refuse to act or should they fail in their efforts to effect a satisfactory adjustment prior to April 1, and if, after that date negotiations are still pending, all anthracite mine workers except those necessary to keep the mines in repair shall remain away from the mines, strippings, washers, and breakers on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday of each week, and should a strike take place no settlement will be made in any separate district, and the trouble will not be confined to the district in which it is declared until it has been officially declared ended by a convention representing the three anthracite districts.

The convention declared that the mine workers cannot consent with honor to themselves or in justice to these dependent on them continue at work during the coming year under the present low wages and indefinite conditions of employment, and provides for a general suspension of work to take effect upon a date to be designated by the executive boards of the three districts.

Efforts by Miners.  
The resolution recites the efforts that have been made by the representatives of anthracite mine workers to secure a joint conference with the operators for the purpose of discussing and determining the wages which should be paid and conditions under which work should be performed and reviews the action of the operators and their reported refusal to act favorably upon the miners' invitations and calls attention to the alleged repeated violations of the promises conveyed in their policies posted one year ago, as well as their alleged failure to carry out the verbal understanding reached with the representatives of coal-carrying roads last March.

The resolution also calls attention to the scale which was drafted and unanimously adopted by the convention, the essential features of which are a shorter work day, a minimum day wage scale, and a uniform increase in wages and the weighing of coal wherever the physical conditions of mining would make it practicable.

Small Annual Earnings.  
It further explains that, upon investigation, it is found that the average annual earnings of the anthracite mine workers are considerably less than in any other important American industry, while the number of fatalities and injuries in proportion to the number employed is greater than in any other industry.

President Mitchell, in an interview to-night, said:

"I think a strike is imminent. The miners realize there is no permanent or satisfactory service in the absence of well-defined conditions. The men have been very patient. I do not know whether the Civic Federation can effect peace."

Before the convention adjourned telegrams were received from operators in New York replying to despatches sent by Mitchell today, asking them for a conference. The operators declined to treat with the United Mine Workers' Union. A special committee of fourteen miners, one to represent every 10,000 workmen, were elected tonight by the executive boards of the three anthracite districts to lay the demands of the convention before the miners.

May Shut Down Mines.  
Letters containing the demand will also be mailed to the coal-carrying roads and individual operators. Fears are expressed by observing ones in this region that if the miners attempt to enforce a suspension of three days a week the operators will have the mines and pumps removed from the mines, and allow the latter to flood and remain in that condition until the miners are ready to work for the same rate of wages that now prevails.

Honor for Monsignor Nozadila.  
ROME, March 24.—The Pope has appointed Monsignor Nozadila, the retiring Archbishop of Manila, consul at Rome of the Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs.

Ten Years Each for Neely,  
Rathbone, and  
Reeves.

RESULT OF THE HAVANA TRIALS

Heavy Additional Financial  
Penalties Imposed by  
the Court.

HISTORY OF THE SCANDAL

Alleged Embezzlements Said to Have  
Amounted Altogether to \$13,113.89, a  
Large Part of Which Came Through the  
Illegal Sale of Surcharged Stamps.

HAVANA, March 24.—The court to-day sentenced Rathbone, Neely and Reeves, who were found guilty of embezzling post-office funds, to ten years' imprisonment each. In addition Neely was fined \$56,701; Reeves, \$35,516, and Rathbone, \$35,324.

In 1899 E. J. Rathbone was director general of posts in Cuba. C. F. W. Neely was chief of the financial bureau, and Dr. W. H. Reeves was chief of the bureau of postal accounts, afterward becoming assistant auditor of the island, when his bureau was made a division of the auditor's department.

First Charges Made.  
The first charges of embezzlement were made against Neely while he was on a visit to this country. One of the regular examinations of some books in his department had shown discrepancies, and before a full examination was completed it became plain that there was a large shortage. Charges of criminality were vigorously denied by Neely and his friends, but these denials fell to the ground when Reeves confessed his share in the embezzlement, turning state's evidence and implicating Rathbone as well as Neely.

For a long time it was urged, and generally believed, that Rathbone's worst fault was incompetency, and that he was the victim of Neely. Rathbone, who was in Havana, protested his innocence, and he was neither removed nor arrested.

Investigation Ordered.  
Then Mr. Bristow, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, was sent to Cuba to make a thorough investigation, and his report was submitted to Secretary Root by Postmaster General Sargent on July 25, 1900. While this report did not directly connect Rathbone with the embezzlement of Neely, it did present circumstantial evidence against him on that ground.

It also accused him of personally and unlawfully converting to his own use money from the Cuban postal revenues and of gross neglect of his duties, and recommended his removal. His removal and arrest followed.